

February 16, 2017

Dear Representative –

I am greatly concerned about the loss of state funds to our town, East Hampton. If this proposal passes, our youth, the middle class and senior citizens will be negatively impacted by this proposal. Not only financially but the future of our town and education of our youth. The town of East Hampton will not approve a drastic tax increase.

What are we 'the middle class, law abiding, tax paying citizens' getting out of these cuts? Nothing positive. I will have less money to live on, less money to support local business owners and my children will have less opportunity and an inferior education.

In our town, year after year we struggle just to keep the bare minimum and meet requirements in our public schools. We reduce or eliminate activities, teachers and technology. Therefore our students TODAY are **not** provided opportunities/ skills to prepare them for the future. Ultimately, teachers are not replaced resulting in class sizes **currently at 30 students per class in grades 5-8**. With the increased states mandates expected, the larger classroom sizes does not allow for students to be provided proper teaching and support. Nor does this allow teachers to educate effectively.

Today, **we in East Hampton already investing less in our students** than our comparable towns and are not providing the technology or opportunity.

With this new proposal to decrease funds, we will only see a greater loss of teachers and increased class sizes and again less opportunity for our youth. This is very sad.

In order to meet the basic needs today in our town, we are already facing a burden on the tax payers. A burden met with resistance by the community. **Our town will not support a significant tax increase to support what the state is proposing to take away.**

If all schools and towns were on the same playing field, I can support a 'we are all in this together' approach. However, we are not. The playing fields are not level.

I chose East Hampton. I am fighting the battle for improvements in our town including advanced technology/ opportunity / athletics and education. Don't punish us for someone else's poor choice. Don't punish the children of our future by providing a subpar education or the middle class who chose to move to a location for a better life or the property owners for working hard and are tax paying citizens.

Please help support us.

Thank you

Kyra Woods East Hampton, Ct